

# THE BANNER.



ABBEVILLE C. H., S. C.:

Wednesday, August 18, 1847.

## Books for Sale, &c.

We would call the attention of our merchants, and persons wishing to purchase books, to the advertisement of Hogan & Thompson, found in our advertising columns.

## Rain.

We still have an abundance of rain from day to day, and this extraordinary summer will be remembered in consequence of the rain that has fallen, as the summer of 1845 was for its dryness. We are very fearful that should it continue much longer, the damage to crops in this District will be very serious. From our exchanges we learn that the damage to crops in the lower country has been very great; in many places large rice crops have been entirely destroyed, and the streams every where unusually full.

## Later from Mexico.

In this week's paper, we have given all the important news from the seat of war, which will still be found unsatisfactory. Gen. Scott instead of having marched upon the city of Mexico, was at Puebla on the 30th of July, with no day even fixed for taking up the line of march. No reliance whatever can be placed upon the rumors that reach us here, and we have come to the conclusion that the Mexicans are greater liars than ever the Cretons were.

## The Rail Road once more.

We are informed by a friend who has been for a few days past in the village of Greenville, that a large proportion of the stock holders in the contemplated rail road in that District, are in favor of the route from Greenville to Aiken; and that with the present feeling upon the subject, a little persuasion would induce all the stockholders to prefer that route. We have from the beginning been in favor of this route, and trust that it will yet be adopted. We believe a proposition of this sort will be readily acceded to by this District, and that a larger amount of stock can be raised by fixing upon it. What are the inducements to carry the road to Columbia? We can see none ourselves, and by adopting the Aiken route, nothing would be lost in the way of travel and freight that could be secured by choosing the other; the saving in the distance of some 25 miles, and in the cost of construction, are strong arguments, we think, in favor of the Aiken route.

We were quite pleased with the views set forth in a couple of articles in the Mountaineer of the 6th inst., advocating the Aiken route, one of which, we have made an extract from, which is as follows:—

"It may now be assumed that the Road from Aiken to Edgefield will be completed. By joining that Road two miles below Edgefield Court House, our Road will be shortened twenty-five miles, which, estimating the cost of construction at \$10,000 the mile, will be a saving of \$250,000. It is not believed that the cost of constructing a Bridge over Broad River and the embankments between the very high hills on each side of the River, can possibly be less than \$200,000. It may be safely calculated that Anderson, Abbeville and Edgefield will subscribe \$250,000, which sums will amount to \$700,000. Deduct from the subscription of Laurens District and Columbia, \$100,000, and you have \$600,000 which will be saved. The crossing of Saluda River at some point above Wilson's Bridge, will cost very little more than constructing the Road on dry land. The river never rises to a very great height, and the numerous shoals furnish such facilities for the construction of a Bridge. Once on a ridge on the West side of Saluda River, and there is no route which offers more advantages for the construction of a Road. One may be made the whole extent without crossing running water.

"It seems to be considered that Newberry is entitled to the Road or a branch. By the present Charter, this is compulsory. From Major Allen's, by which place the main trunk must pass, it is only twenty-six miles to Newberry Court House, allow \$300,000 for a branch to Newberry, and we have still \$300,000 left of the sum of \$600,000, which would be saved. To this may be safely added \$100,000 more, which will be subscribed by the wealthy sections of Edgefield and Newberry through which this branch will pass; and there will still be a saving, after building the Road in the direction of Aiken and the branch to Newberry, of \$400,000. Will the Road, when completed, be less profitable? I think not,

but much more so. What inducement has any one to go to Columbia? None, that I know of, but those offered by the College, the Courts, and the Legislature. The travellers on the Rail Road, on all these accounts, will not amount to 1,000 in the year. The Aiken route passes not only through a wealthier and more productive section of country, but the most so in the upper country. The branch to Newberry will command all the freight which would find its way to the Road if the main trunk passed through Newberry and Laurens, whilst the main trunk will command the freights of Abbeville and Edgefield, not a pound of which will be transported on the Road if it goes directly to Columbia. If the Road passes Cokesbury and Greenwood, no one can doubt that it will be extended to Abbeville Court House, a distance of only fifteen miles. In that event, we shall not only have all the freight and travel of that immensely rich and productive District, but much of the commerce of the adjacent Counties of Georgia, which I do not hesitate to say will amount to all the freight furnished by all the contiguous Districts on the other route, all of which will at the same time be retained, and thus the business of the Road be doubled."

## FROM MEXICO.

From the N. O. Picayune, 7th inst.

Later from General Scott's Army. Thirty Days Later from Puebla and Mexico.

General Scott at Puebla the 30th of July—Probability of an Immediate Advance—Evacuation of Puebla—Valencia's Arrival at Mexico with Four Thousand Troops—A general engagement expected—Santa Anna and Congress Quarrelling—General Pierce's arrival at Perote—Reported Action with the Guerrillas—Death of Lieutenants Tipton and Sturgeon &c.

The U. S. steamer Fashion, Captain Ivy, arrived late last evening from Vera Cruz, bringing us dates from that city to 2nd inst. Her news is most important. She brings a large mail.

General Scott was still at Puebla on the 30th of July. The news of the Nacional extra was totally unfounded, as we believed and contended from the first.

The courier of the British legation arrived at Vera Cruz on the 31st ult., with correspondence from Mexico to the 29th of July, and from Puebla to the 30th.

Our letters from Vera Cruz differ somewhat from Mr. Kendall's in regard to the probable movements of General Scott. They represent the chances of peace in a more favorable light than Mr. K., and think the resistance to our advance will be almost nominal. Mr. Kendall thinks differently and gives his reasons. We can only find room this morning for his latest letters, which will be found below.

In Mexico every thing is at sixes and sevens. Congress has referred Mr. Buchanan's letter back to the Executive, and thrown upon him all the responsibilities of the war. About 26,000 men are collecting for the defence of the city, but the peace party in the town is yet strong and increasing, and they have no faith in their generals.

General Pierce, with his train and convoy, had arrived safely at Perote. General Scott, it will be seen, despatched General Smith's brigade from Puebla to meet him. It will be seen that Mr. Kendall believes General Scott would advance the first week in August upon Mexico, and that there would be the severest battle of the war.—The Mexicans are fully prepared to receive him.

The Sun of Anahuac gives the following account of an encounter between General Pierce's train and the guerrillas. It must be regarded as a rumor, says our correspondent, and so too says the Sun:

A respectable person of the city has informed us that a letter has been received yesterday morning from a citizen of this place, from a guerrilla chief, stating that the guerrillas, about 600 in number, attacked the train command by Gen. Pierce, near the National Bridge. The letter says the Americans approached under the fire of the Mexicans until they arrived within a hundred yards of them, when the American Infantry opened a deadly fire on them, forcing them to retreat. While the Mexicans were retreating the American cavalry rushed on them, sword in hand, and killed about one hundred Mexicans. The position of the Mexicans was one of the strongest that can be found in the country. The Americans passed the bridge, after this successful engagement.

A gentleman who conversed with Santa Anna since the middle of July—we are told this on the best authority in Vera Cruz—found him in favor of negotiating, but dreading to assume the responsibility. General Valencia had arrived at the capital with 4,000 men from San Luis Potosi—all full of fight. This embarrassed Santa Anna. He felt himself too strong to give up without a fight.

Our letters mention the death of Lieut. Tipton, of the Rifles, and Lieut. Sturgeon, of one of the Pennsylvania regiments.—The former was the son of ex-Senator Tipton, of Indiana—the latter of Senator Sturgeon, of Pennsylvania.

General Shield's health is nearly re-established, as his many friends will be delighted to hear.

Two letters from Lieut. Whipple are published in the papers. He is treated kindly as a prisoner of war and expects shortly to be exchanged. He was on his way to Cordova at last accounts. The letters are

too long for us to day. Governor Soto has him in charge, to whom Governor Wilson has written, thanking him for his civilities.

The following in relation to the evacuation of Tabasco is from the Sun of Anahuac of the 27th ult.

The U. S. steamer Mississippi, Com. Perry, arrived yesterday at Lizardo, bringing with him the steamers Scorpion, Spitfire and Vixen.

The forces have been withdrawn from the city of Tabasco, in consequence of the severe sickness which prevailed among them, till the sickly season shall have passed.

Everything was taken on board, and the evacuation was effected without molestation from the enemy, who was in considerable force outside. The defences were all destroyed when the place was first occupied six weeks since.

Com. Van Brunt, with the bomb brig Emma, the steamer Scourge and the gunboat Bonita, were left at Frontera, a few miles from the mouth of the river, (it being a healthy location) to take charge of the custom-house there, and guard the passages leading to the capital.

The health of the city of Vera Cruz is improving, says the papers. We will give the official statement in our next, but the average daily mortality is about nine.—The *romito* is decreasing.

We have letters from the American officers prisoners in Mexico which we cannot find room for this morning. The latest date is the 15th of July. The health of the party is good, but they see no prospects of release. They long for the arrival of the army. General Scott has made another effort in their behalf, but we do not yet know the result.

Gen. Almonte has been sent to Tulancingo. The nature of the charges against him we have not yet been able to ascertain.—More of him in our next.

Gen. Alvarez was in the capital the middle of July and had several long interviews with Santa Anna.

Mr. Kendall perseveres in sending couriers to Vera Cruz, though he has had three captured. One has been killed. He fought bravely for his life and was faithful to the last. By singular good fortune the letters by this courier we have recovered. They are not of a late date, but it is rather singular that they should have reached their destination against the wishes of the Mexicans, when once in their possession. We have not yet had time even to read them. Mr. K. will continue to despatch messengers to the coast.

## Editorial Correspondence of the Picayune.

PUEBLA, Mexico, July 25, 1847.

Since despatching my last courier, three days ago, I have not written you, for the simple reason that I had nothing to say.—Even rumors have not been as abundant as they were a week since, the jade who circulated them with so prolific a hand on our first arrival having either tired herself down or worn herself out. Not ten days since, and we had twenty different stories in relation to Santa Anna in as many different hours—his stock, if I may be allowed to use the term, was purely of a fany description, rising and falling with every puff of wind from the capital. Now, we simply hear occasionally that he continues to lead Congress and the people by the nose—in short, that he is having everything his own way. Dictator he was, at last accounts, to all intents and purposes, and his measures, whatever they may have been, he was carrying out with a high and most unscrupulous hand. The law of one day, if it stood the least in his way, was abolished the next, and he who raised a word of opposition or dissent was placed where his voice could not be heard, let him shout at his loudest.—Such was the state of affairs at the capital four days ago—they may have altered since then.

I have seen an order, issued from the city of Mexico on the 19th inst. by Gen. Lombardini, in which, after stating that it is now time for the great Mexican nation to show the world that her sons have not degenerated, the commander-in-chief goes on to decree as follows: That on the Americans' first appearance in sight of the capital, a gun shall be fired in the plaza; that instantly all the bands shall strike up the alarm; that all the military shall at once hurry to their appropriate stations; that all the stores, save those where provisions and charcoal are sold, shall be immediately closed; that no carriage shall be allowed in the streets, and that there shall be no assemblage of persons in any part of the city. Such is the plan of giving the first alarm, and of the after government of the city. The idea of showing to the world that her sons have not degenerated is purely Mexican, but what a pity they should not have thought of this before. It will take a good deal of hard fighting and bloodshed to place them where they stood previous to the battle of Palo Alto.

In one of my last letters I noticed the death of Lieut. Tipton of the Rifles—a son of Senator Tipton, of Indiana. Since then a son of Senator Sturgeon, of Pennsylvania, a Lieut. in one of the regiments from that State, has died, and he, too, I have been told was a young man of much promise.—I cannot learn that any of our officers are now seriously indisposed, and the health of the army generally is improving. To be sure there are 1500 or 2000 men still on the sick list, but a larger portion of them are convalescing.

Last evening, on the strength of a letter said to have been received from the Spanish Minister in Mexico, peace stock went up.

It was rumored that the contents of his communication made peace inevitable—that the Congress and Santa Anna were disposed to agree to anything in order to insure it; now, while I am writing, intelligence has come in from which it would appear that there is no earthly chance for an amicable adjustment of our difficulties.

From all accounts, it would appear that Santa Anna and Congress are at sword's points, and that the former has all the advantage over the constituent wisdom of the great and magnanimous Mexican nation. It may be recollected that some two months since Congress passed an act declaring any one a traitor who would even entertain the idea of a peace with the North Americans. So far so good. When Santa Anna received Mr. Buchanan's last propositions, a few weeks since, he at once submitted them to Congress for that body to act upon the matter in the premises; but what did Congress do but send the papers back with an answer that the initiatory steps belonged exclusively to the executive. At this Santa Anna became enraged—said he did not send the papers before Congress to ascertain what his prerogatives were—he knew their full extent well—but he laid the matter before that body in order that the members might rescind their former decree declaring any one a traitor, &c., if they saw fit. That he thought they would do this, and thus give him all and every power, is highly probable; but Congress took a stubborn fit, and here the whole affair rests for the present. I do not even see who will deign offer an answer to Mr. Buchanan's propositions, which seems to have been transferred into a species of foot-ball to be kicked backwards and forwards by Santa Anna and the Congress—neither party in the present distracted state of the country, daring to lay hands upon the unfortunate document. Bold and unscrupulous as even the tyrant is in all matters of state policy, he dare not take a responsibility so heavy upon his shoulders as to come out alone and advocate a peace.

The impression now is, that he has determined to hazard the defence of the capital, and this impression gains strength when it is known that he has Congress to lay the blame upon in case he suffers another defeat. Another battle, in my humble opinion, will be of immense advantage to the United States; for if Gen. Scott moves upon the capital the Mexicans will certainly be defeated, and if he remains here, and there is no more fighting, the enemy will contrive to come out of the war conquerors. They will endeavor to make it appear that the Yankee, fearful of risking a battle at their principal city sued for a peace, and in the eyes of the world they will be able to make out a tolerably clear case.

Santa Anna has recently levied a contribution—a forced loan it may be called—upon the inhabitants, in which he calls for \$280,875 to carry on the war. The churches and convents, as well as private individuals, are assessed, and it is hinted that the tyrant has left the names of some of his few friends off of the tax list. The foreigners, who have been called upon without stint, have made regular protest it is said against the unjust taxation, but Santa Anna does not stand upon trifles in his money transactions.

From every indication, it would appear that Gen. Scott intends an immediate movement upon the city of Mexico—at least within a week or ten days. Hard bread is being baked for the march, the quartermasters have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness, and in every department all is bustle and activity. It being found impossible to receive clothing from the U. States, hundreds of Mexicans are hard at work putting our men in uniform. Some of the men even think that the army will move before Gen. Pierce comes up, but it is hardly probable that Gen. Scott will march before that officer gets within two or three days' march. At least 1500 of the sick will be left behind, but a majority of them would be in a situation to take up arms in case the garrison was attacked.

Speaking of sickness, the South Carolina regiment has suffered more than any other in the service. This was not expected. It was thought the Northern regiments would suffer most here away in the tropics, but the N. Yorkers and South Carolinians have been, as it were, side by side, and the former have had but a few cases on the sick list comparatively. The South Carolinians out of 900 strong when first mustered, now turn out but 400. Of the other 500 some 140 have died, 200 have been left sick in the rear, and the rest are now in hospital here. The health of the regiment is improving however, and many are convalescing.

Yours, &c. G. W. K.

PUEBLA, Mexico, June 10, 1847.

Great numbers of Mexican families continue to leave Puebla, frightened at the thousand and one reports that the city is to be attacked. One old fellow, who started out this morning in his coach, is probably now sorry he did not remain, for he was robbed of \$10,000 by the guerrillas, near Amosque. A party of the Americans started out this afternoon in pursuit of the robbers, but were unable to find them on account of a heavy rain which set in.

I have seen a man this afternoon, a Mexican who enjoys the singular reputation of being honest, who says that he left the capital two days since. He states that the Mexicans are fortifying at Rio Frio, where they had cut down an immense number of trees, and that the works at El Penon are also still going on. At Vienta de Cordova the Mexicans also intend making a stand—many think that at this place the main battle will be fought. Almonte was a close prisoner

at Santiago—the old convent where the Texans were so long confined—and the above Mexican brings a rumor that he had been tried and sentenced to be shot.

Yours, &c., G. W. K.

PUEBLA, Mexico, June 23, 1847.

Arrests continue, and the way they are going on now every carcel will soon be full. Duran, a judge of one of the courts here, was arrested yesterday for contumacious conduct and neglect of duty. He will be kept in prison until he has apologized for what he has already done, and promises to behave better in future. A noted captain of guerrillas, named Vilas, has also been captured, and is now safe under guard.—He was caught acting the spy. On the roads the guerrillas harm their own people infinitely more than they do ours, and the better policy may be to let the scoundrels entirely alone. I have previously stated that some of the Mexican papers are loud in their complaints against the system.

A foreigner arrived here last night with dates from the capital up to the 20th inst. He reports verbally that there are few troops on the road, and that although the fortifications are still going on they have taken up but one bridge on the main route. Santa Anna was expecting from some point on the Pacific no less than 20,000 muskets—a most important thing if he obtains them.

PUEBLA, Mexico, June 27, 1847.

A court of inquiry, called by General Worth, has been in session for a day or two. It seems that General Scott has in some way expressed himself dissatisfied with the capitulation entered into with the Poblanos by Gen. W. but also with some of the acts of the latter while in command of the city. General Worth promptly called for an investigation and I trust that all may be satisfactorily settled.

I must give you a rumor. It is said that Canulizo himself was in Puebla last night, in disguise of course and that he went out this morning in the direction of Amosque and Napalubo. It is further said that he sent a force of some considerable amount by a road North of this place, which he is to overtake, and then, after joining Alvarez at some given point, is to attack the upward train at the first favorable place that offers. This story is told with a plausibility and sincerity that would give it credit in any other country, but here one knows not what to believe.

P. S.—Mr. Thornton, the gentleman attached to the British legation at Mexico, and who was here on Sunday, started back on the same afternoon. I believe he called on Gen. Scott, as well as Mr. Trist, but the result of either interview is a most profound mystery to the mass of inquisitive Yankees now quartered in Puebla. I would wager a good dinner—a thing, by the way, you cannot get here—that his visits have something to do with peace, and that Santa Anna is privy to the whole matter. That they will amount to anything, is entirely a different matter. All accounts agree that the greatest discord exists at the capital, that a *pronunciamento* is daily expected, and that there is no unanimity in the councils of the nation. Any one who reflects can well hazard the conjecture that Santa Anna, while holding out war to the more belligerent, may still be so working his cards as to induce some one in Congress, or elsewhere, to open the question of peace, and then go over himself if there is the least chance of success. This is mere speculation, but it would be like the "Hero of Tampico," at all events. By all this you must not understand that I think the war is over.

PUEBLA, Mexico, July 14.

This morning I was enabled, through the exertions of a Spanish priest, to obtain a look at a file of Mexican papers up to the 11th inst. I hastily give you a synopsis of such items as may be of the least moment, promising that the papers contain little matter of interest.

Jose Ramon Pacheco has been appointed Minister of Foreign Relations, in place of Senor Ibarra resigned. He entered upon the duties of his office on the 8th inst., and up to the 11th continued in office.

Under the head of "Persecutions" El Monitor Republicano, of the 8th inst., says that an order had been issued for Gen. Almonte to march for Tulancingo within twenty-four hours, and that all aid and assistance had been refused him.

Dates from Mazatlan up to the 24th June have been received. At that time the British men of war Constance and Carysfort were lying in the harbor, but no American vessel in sight. The writer says that they had all gone off to avoid the storms, but would come back after the rainy season was over. They were expected in several merchant vessels from Europe, and appeared confident they would be able to run in and discharge their cargoes.

We have a rumor, received through Mexican channels, to the effect that Congress was to meet yesterday or to-day, a quorum having been formed. If this be true, the first business before that body will probably be Mr. Buchanan's last propositions of peace, and a most stormy session may be anticipated. There is no mistake that the friends of peace, especially among the rich property holders of the capital, are more in favor of coming to terms now as the danger approaches.

P. S.—Just as I was closing the letter Capt. Kearney returned. He was not permitted to go farther than Rio Frio. At the bridge of Tescmuelcan he encountered a body of the enemy, fled at his approach although he had a white flag flying. Kearney pursued, with the hope of overtaking the